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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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10/662,738

09/15/2003

William J. Jones

47171-00400USPT

1687

41230

7590

12/13/2004

CUMMINS-ALLISON CORP.
C/O JENKENS & GILCHRIST
225 WEST WASHINGTON STREET, SUITE 2600
CHICAGO, IL 60606

EXAMINER

CRAWFORD, GENE O

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

3651

DATE MAILED: 12/13/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/662,738

Applicant(s)

JONES ET AL.

Examiner

Gene O. Crawford

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-58 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 24-32 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-6, 14, 16-19, 21, 33-41, 43-45, 47-50, 52-55 and 57 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 7-13, 15, 20, 22, 23, 42, 46, 51, 56 and 58 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on ____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 5/10/2004.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: ____.

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

2. Claims 1-6, 14, 16-19, 21, 33-41, 43-45, 47-50 and 52-55 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Kayani et al. (U.S. Re. 38,663).

The document processing device and method thereof disclosed by Kayani et al. includes all the claimed features and in particular includes: an input receptacle adapted to receive at least two batches 16, 20, 24 of documents including currency 100 and header cards 18, 22, 26, the heading cards bearing source information 36 identifying the source of the currency bills in the respective batch; at least one output receptacle 94 adapted to receive the currency bills after evaluation and adapted to receive the header card; an evaluation unit 102, 104, 106, 108, 110 adapted to evaluate the currency bills and distinguish the header card from the currency bills; memory that could include an information library or database coupled to the evaluation unit for storing batch document information based on evaluating the at least two batches of documents (column 6, lines 15-27); means 104 for entering into memory source identification information from the header cards; and a controller coupled to the evaluation unit to control operation of the

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transport mechanism, evaluation unit, and associating source identification information 56, 58, 60 in memory with batch document information 68, 70, 72 in memory; obtaining source information for each batch before loading the batches into the document processing device (column 5, lines 47-57); transporting the header card and rejected documents to an output receptacle 94 such that the header cards separate documents from consecutive batches (column 6, lines 8-14); and a bar code gun coupled to the memory for entering the source identification information into memory.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. Claim 57 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kayani et al.

With regard to claim 57, the use of a cartridge to place currency bills in an input receptacle appears to be an obvious design choice and expedient in view that it is notoriously well known that cartridges can be used to place documents into inputs of sheet feeding machines.

Allowable Subject Matter

5. Claims 24-32 are allowed.

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6. Claims 7-13, 15, 20, 22, 23, 42, 46, 51, 56 and 58 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

7. The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowance and/or allowable subject matter: a document processing for processing at least two batches of documents and method thereof including the unique features of 'removing the header cards from the at least two batches before transporting the documents through the processing device'; 'printing a separator card during multiple batch processing'; 'keying into memory rejected documents associated with a first of the at least two batches before bar code scanning the header card associated with a second of the at least two batches'; 'prompting an operator to enter source identification information associated with the two batches after the batches have been processed'; and 'remotely accessing information from the information library'.

Conclusion

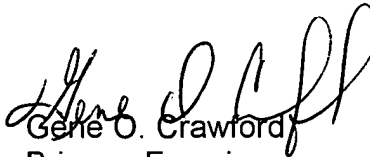
8. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

9. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Gene O. Crawford whose telephone number is 703/305-9733. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday thru Thursday.

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If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Christopher Ellis can be reached on 703/308-1113. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).


Gene O. Crawford
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 3651
